Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

MoDOT Employee Satisfaction Surveys

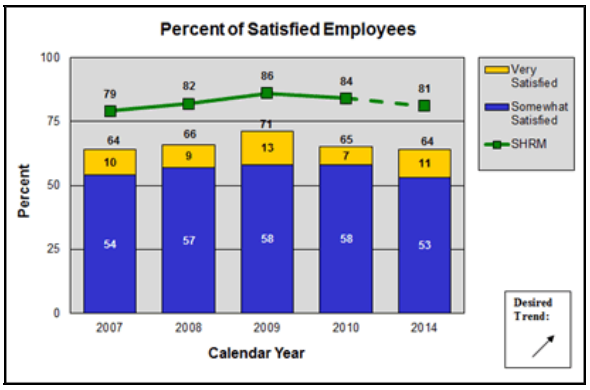
by Jim Dickson

The employee satisfaction survey results are in. From the survey, we learned we have some strengths to build on, but we have some work to get where we want to be as an organization.

We learned MoDOT employees are resilient. Despite major organizational changes, MoDOT employee satisfaction has dipped only slightly since our last survey in 2010 (65 to 64 percent)

We learned our efforts to live our values are working. Safety was the highest rated survey item. Diversity and employees building work skills and job knowledge were also rated at the top of all survey items. But that doesn't mean we don't have work to do in these areas, especially with building a more diverse workforce

Finally, we learned MoDOT employees are dissatisfied with little or no salary increases and limited promotional opportunities. We also learned we have work to do in communicating better with employees, seeking out employee suggestions and using our resources wisely.



Note: The Society for Human Resources Management best practice data was gathered from the 2014 SHRM report of an annual job satisfaction survey of 55 Fortune 500 companies conducted in 2013 (the 2014 number will be available early 2015).

What we'll do next:
Over the next few months, we will form teams involving employees from across the organization. Those teams will develop specific actions to improve MoDOT in their assigned areas. Some actions may be implemented immediately, while others may take more time to put into place. We want employee participation on these teams, so look for future information about opportunities to be on a team. Employee input will be key to successfully developing these actions.

"We take the results of this survey seriously and realize we need employees help to better understand the issues and develop solutions," said MoDOT Director Dave Nichols. "Most of these issues have no quick fixes. I hope employees will participate if asked. We can only move forward together."

Want to read for yourself?
Use the SharePoint link below to find the full survey report. You also can find information about how your area of the department scored in the Appendix - Employee Survey *(link available for employees only)*.

Honoring Those We Have Lost

by Tammy Wallace

MoDOT employees observed the second annual Day of Remembrance on Sept. 18 in Jefferson City at the Fallen Worker Memorial. A large group of employees joined Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger to honor the memory of the 131 co-workers we have lost.

As employees read the names of our fallen co-workers, employees with the Ride for Remembrance group place the wreath on the memorial.

Some of the most memorable moments of the ceremony were the mother and children of Senior Construction Technician Jerry Lizotte placing roses on the memorial, the reading the 131 names of our fallen while placing the wreath and the playing of Taps during a moment of silence.

Another special moment happened when a group of St. Louis employees riding motorcycles and driving antique cars arrived at the ceremony. The Ride for Remembrance was organized to raise money for the 1033 Benevolent Fund.

To recommit ourselves to working safely so no more names will ever be added to the memorial, State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright led the attendees in reciting our safety pledge. If you did not have an opportunity to do this, take a moment now to recite the pledge and recommit to working safely.

My Safety Commitment
I will make safety my highest priority and do everything within my power so everyone goes home safe every day.

Photos of the ceremony can be found here - Photos.

A short video can be found here - Video.

Details of the regional remembrance ceremonies can be found on the district pages in this edition of Connections.

Teams Recognized for Working Safely

by Jeff Padgett

Teams who have been working safely during the first half of 2014 are being recognized for their safe work habits. The Safety Begins with Me Awards program, which began in 2013, awards employees and work units who have met the safety commitments of:

- I'm Safe
- What I Use is Safe
- Where I Am is Safe
- My Customers Are Safe
- So We Go Home Safe

Individual awards were given earlier this year. Now, the work unit teams are being recognized for their success in making safety a priority.

"Working safely is the most important thing an employee can do on the job each day," said Director Dave Nichols. "It's our primary focus, keeping ourselves, our partners and our customers safe. I'm very proud of what has been accomplished in the area of safety, and I congratulate all of the teams receiving the awards."

There are 169 work units out of 339 receiving team awards. This is a great start, but we can do better. The most common incidents and injuries that kept teams from being eligible were:

- Fleet - snow removal, driving incidents, parking and mowing.
- Injuries - slip, trip and falls, strains, being stuck by something and cut/puncture.

Knowing these common fleet and injury pitfalls can help us prevent them from happening if we make a point to focus on these areas during morning safety discussions and on the job.

We congratulate these teams for their dedication to safety, and urge everyone to focus on safety every day.

Interested in a Supervisory Position in Maintenance?

Apply to the Maintenance Leadership Academy

by Linda Wilson-Horn

The Maintenance Leadership Academy provides an opportunity for employees interested in a future supervisory position in Maintenance. The program is designed to provide prospective leaders with the knowledge, tools and skills necessary for the next supervisory level within MoDOT maintenance. Curriculum includes leadership and technical training along with job shadowing. The program is divided into a crew leader, supervisor or superintendent levels. Each series is designed to better prepare an individual for the specific duties associated with that position.

"Employees who are interested in the next level up in supervisory position are encouraged to apply," said Kevin Arthaud, intermediate employee development specialist. "For example, if you are a senior maintenance worker, you could apply for the crew leader series of training. Someone who is currently a crew leader could apply for the supervisor series, and current supervisors could apply for the superintendent series."

Employees who are interested can submit an application between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2014. Selections will be made by Dec. 31, 2014. The Maintenance Leadership Academy will kick off in January 2015 and last through most of the year.

Booklets with applications will be available at the fall meetings and also through district Human Resources, district maintenance engineer or the Human Resources Employee Development office in Central Office.

Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign is Underway – *Magical things are sure to happen!*

by Dawn Haslag

The 2015 campaign, Caring is Magical, marks the 30th year of giving to those in need. Missouri state employees will once again be asked to show just how bighearted they are during the campaign. MoDOT's official campaign started on Sept.16 and will continue through Oct. 24. This time allows employees the chance to make individual pledges through an easy payroll deduction or take part in one of the many fun and interesting fundraising events that are sure to take place in district and division offices.

Charities rely on the assistance provided by Missourians like you. Regardless of how you choose to donate, participating in the charitable campaign is totally up to you, but it is a great way to show how much you care. Any amount, no matter how big or small, will go a long way toward helping people who are less fortunate than you.

Another very exciting aspect of the campaign is that MoDOT has been the largest donor agency for the past seven years in a row. During the 2014 campaign, MoDOT employees gave $172,260 to charities. The amount raised reflects 2,105 employees making some sort of donation. If you haven't participated in the past, why not make this year "magical" and start contributing to a participating charity. Even if you are only able to participate in a fundraising event, it all counts.

So remember, when you receive your pledge card this year, take a moment and think of those who have less and select a charity in the brochure by

logging onto www.msecc.mo.gov/, or by obtaining a paper brochure from a campaign coordinator. Pledge cards will be distributed to all employees by your district/division coordinator. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

For more information on the campaign contact MoDOT's CO MSECC coordinators Jennifer Jorgensen at 573-751-2824, Dawn Haslag at 573-751-5678, Richard Schomaker at 573-522-1962 or Kelly Mertens at 573-751-9253 or your district/division coordinator.

Golf Tournament Raises Money for Benevolent Fund

MoDOT's 10th annual golf tournament to raise money for the 10-33 Benevolent Fund happened last week at the Columbia Country Club. The tournament is just one of three taking place this time of year to raise money for the fund. The other tournaments are organized by law enforcement, corrections and firefighters.

The fund is used in the unfortunate circumstance that a state employee in transportation, law enforcement, corrections or firefighter loses his or her life in the line of duty. The fund immediately provides $5,000 to the family during the loss of their loved one.

So far the tournaments have raised more than $52,000 (before expenses) with MoDOT's contributions accounting for nearly half of that total. MoDOT tournament results are:

Championship Flight					
1st	Mike Meyers	Brad Rumfelt	Ron Barton	Zach Hines	53
2nd	Shawn Riley	Rusty Weisman	Brett G.	Steve S.	56
A-Flight					
1st	Patrick Skain	John Miller	Mike Curtit	Jason Tharp	63
2nd	Dave Straatman	Bill Dunn	Trent Crawford	Ted Koester	63
B-Flight					
1st	Todd Kempker	Kurt Gribble	Brad McCloud	Dustin Kaiser	65
2nd	Buddy Desai	Bob Brendel	Chris Boyd	Greg Horn	65
C Flight					
1st	Greg Horn	Mollie LeBlanc	Tom Blair	Jim Middleton	68
2nd	Broyles	Pfeifer	Walsh	Rick Mantay	68
Contests					
Longest Drive #1 (men) - Zach Hines					
Longest Drive #1 (women) – Stephanie Bruemmer					
Closest to the Pin #16 (men) – Ed Moody (hole in one)					
Closest to the Pin #16 (women) – Judy Cotter (18'3")					

Washington Bridge Gets One of Missouri's Three TIGER Grants

by Bob Brendel

A new Route 47 bridge over the Missouri River at Washington is one of three Missouri projects to receive funding through the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently announced.

MoDOT received $10 million toward the total project cost that is expected to be nearly $60 million. The third time proved to be the charm for the application, which was managed by Area Engineer Judy Wagner. MoDOT submitted the bridge project for TIGER grants twice before – in 2012 and 2013.

"We're ecstatic to bring in TIGER funds to construct the new river bridge," Wagner told the Washington Missourian. "It's a great opportunity for us to move forward on a very important project for the community."

Construction is currently slated to begin in 2016 or early 2017, with the new bridge to be open to traffic in 2018.

A new bridge on Route 47 over the Missouri River Bridge at Washington is now possible through funding from the TIGER grant program. More photos of the bridge in its current condition can be found here - Route 47 Bridge.

The TIGER program is highly competitive. In this round 797 eligible applications were submitted from 49 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, an increase from the 585 applications received in 2013. Overall, applicants requested 15 times the $600 million available for the program, or $9.5 billion for needed transportation projects. When combined with local matching funds, this round of TIGER grants will enable 72 projects that total $2.1 billion. TIGER grants have been issued annually since 2009.

Missouri transit projects in St. Louis and Kansas City also received 2014 TIGER grants. In St. Louis, a $10.3 million grant will help MetroLink build a new station in the Cortex Innovation Community between Boyle Avenue and Sarah Street. The total project cost is estimated to be $12.9 million.

Cortex is home to a 200-acre innovation hub and technology district integrated into St. Louis' historic Central West End and Forest Park Southeast residential neighborhoods. Among its partners are the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Washington University, BJC Healthcare, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis University, Missouri Botanical Garden, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, and the St. Louis Regional Chamber.

The Kansas City region received a $1.2 million planning grant for an initiative to double the number of jobs accessible by public transit over the next 10 years.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) applied for the grant on behalf of the Regional Transit Coordinating Council, in partnership with the area's four transit agencies – the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Johnson County Transit, Unified Government Transit and Indebus.

"The employment rate is up and more companies are hiring, but there is often a disconnect between where people live and where the jobs are," said Ron Achelpohl, MARC's director of transportation. "Our public transit system currently offers little suburb-to-suburb service, and we want to identify ways to address that."

In a press release, Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill said the funding means more jobs and economic opportunities.

"These grants are competitive, and are awarded based on merit, so Missourians can be confident that these are worthy investments that will strengthen Missouri's economy," she said.

For more information about the TIGER grant program, visit http://www.dot.gov/tiger.

Fatality Update

What's Happening

MoDOT Director Speaks to Citizens Group

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols recently spoke to the Citizens for Modern Transit group about the department's vision for the future of transportation in Missouri. He said the department needs to continue pursuing funding mechanisms and plans for multimodal transportation strategies.

"I want to thank CMT for its support and endorsement of Constitutional Amendment 7. The election results, though disappointing, told us again that people weren't voting against transportation, they were voting for or against the funding mechanism. We must continue working to find a solution that Missourians will support. MoDOT's focus has not changed. Our top priorities remain keeping ourselves and our customers safe; taking care of the transportation system we have, for as long as we can, with the resources we have; and providing outstanding customer service. That's where we'll focus our attention and spend our limited funds," said Nichols.

New Back 2 Basics Video Coming Soon

The September Back 2 Basics video on chemical weed control is nearing completion and will be available in the next few

days. Watch for its launch in MoDOT Now and visit the comprehensive safety webpage (videos) for the new posting - http://wwwi/intranet/SafetyVideos.htm.

Supervisors are asked to share the video with employees during morning safety discussions prior to performing this operation.

National Walk to School Day

Mark your calendars to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 8! This global event is all about promoting health, safety and a cleaner environment. Schools can register for the event and learn more at http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/.

Missourians should watch out for more foot traffic in their neighborhoods for their morning commute on Oct. 8.

Walk for fitness. Walk for fun. Walk to school!

Remember to Vote for the Stan Span

The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge in St. Louis has been selected as one of 10 national finalists in the 2014 America's Transportation Awards competition, and MoDOT needs your help to win.

It is time to vote! The People's Choice Award will be selected through online voting which ends Oct. 24. The winners will be announced at the AASHTO Annual Meeting on Nov. 23, 2014.

You can vote up to 10 times each day through AASHTO's online awards link http://nominate.americastransportationawards.org/Voting.aspx. Make sure to select MoDOT's entry shown as MO/IL: Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge – Mississippi River Bridge on the voting page.

September Retirements

Curtis W. Markt – NW – 19 years
Raymond L. Smith – NE – 20 years
Jimmie L. Fight – KC – 6 years
Ronnie E. Smith – KC – 19 years
Stephen C. Wilson – KC – 7 years
Demetrius A. Webb – KC – 26 years

Michael D. Myers – CD – 29 years
Danny G. Cronin – SL – 33 years
Michael L. Dodge – SL – 24 years
Jerome C. Haberberger – SL – 15 years
Michael A. Mellenbruch – SW – 28 years
Gary M. Klass – SW – 30 years

Larry J. Davis – SE – 15 years
Roy G. Gaither – SE – 26 years
Howard E. McNew – SE – 18 years
Austin D. Emory – SE – 15 years
Margie A. Mansager – CO – 30 years
Karmen S. Stockman – CO – 25 years

In Memoriam

John Fletcher
former D4 – August 14
Clyde Johnson
former D2 – August 17
Raymond Bailey
former D2 – August 24
Leroy Nunn
former D10 – August 25

Carson Pappenfort
CO – August 26
Robert Cantrell
former D6 – September 1
Delbert Bennett
former D9 – September 1

Lee Hardy
former D7 – September 2
Virgil Brunkhorst
former D4 – September 10
Norman Doerhoff
CO – September 20

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

HOME CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Bridge Employee Fall Meeting

By Patrick Wood

MoDOT's Bridge division had their fall meeting on Sept. 18 at the Riverside Park Pavilion in Jefferson City. The meeting started with a welcome and introduction by State Bridge Engineer Dennis Heckman, followed by a discussion with Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey. Other topics covered included updates from the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and Employee Benefits, as well as a diversity and inclusion activity.

The group took a moment of silence at 1:31 p.m. to honor those that have fallen for MoDOT's Day of Remembrance.

Bridge division employees were given an overview of a bridge inspection by Bridge Management Engineer David Koenig and a demonstration of an under bridge inspection truck by Bridge Maintenance Supervisor Steve Ealey and Senior Bridge Maintenance Worker Jesse Elseman.

Wondering how they got this great group photo? Senior Administrative Technician Carol Wieberg bravely perched in the snooper truck to get the shot.

Fall meetings will take place across the state through October. A virtual meeting will be available soon for those who are not able to attend an in-person meeting. Watch the next issue of Connections for more information.

Hermann Celebrates New AMTRAK Station

by Linda Wilson-Horn

An AMTRAK Mo River Runner train pulls into the new Hermann station at the September 12 grand opening. All photos can be found on flicker - Celebration Photos.

Hermann is one of 10 stops on AMTRAK's Missouri River Runner line between St. Louis and Kansas City. However, the quaint Missouri River town known for its wineries was a stop with no station. On Friday, Sept. 12, the town of Hermann, its chamber, AMTRAK and MoDOT celebrated the opening of a train station.

"This station was a long time in the making and took a great deal of effort from many people. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work with our transportation partners to make this project a success," said Dion Knipp, a multimodal division staffer who worked on the project.

Visitors will now have a proper station to greet them when they make the AMTRAK stop. For more information on the Missouri River Runner AMTRAK line, visit www.amtrak.com.

Performance Group Transferred to Transportation Planning

by Jim Dickson

MoDOT is fortunate to be a national leader in performance management. In fact, our Tracker publication will be 10 years old in January. That's given the department a pretty good head start on other DOTs. However with MAP-21, the federal surface transportation act, pushing new national performance measures and targets to MoDOT and its transportation partners, it makes sense to make the best use of department resources to further our performance management efforts.

It's with that in mind that the performance management and the Tracker responsibilities will be moving from Customer Relations to the Transportation Planning Division. This will help the department establish a stronger link between long range planning, asset management, Tracker and national performance measures, and create a seamless connection between Missouri's Vision for Transportation and our tangible results and performance measures.

The five performance group employees assigned to Customer Relations (Jim Dickson, Karen Miller, Greg Clarkston, Kelly Backues and Brittany Goetz) will be transferred to the Long Range Planning section of the Transportation Planning Division on Oct. 1. The group will move later this fall to the second floor of our building downtown.

Coventry Wellness Newsletter

Focus on Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity is a growing problem in the United States. It's up to parents to teach their kids to eat right and exercise, and if needed, encourage them to lose weight.

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness month. It's never too late or too early to develop healthy habits. Take some time to focus on healthy eating and a physically active lifestyle. Check out the newsletter for health tips and recipes - Newsletter.

Central Office Happenings

Charitable Campaign Kick-Off

Central Office kicked off the charitable campaign in Jefferson City last week. There were many opportunities for employees to participate from buying lunch to donating money for someone shave their head.

Watch for more opportunities to participate from now through Oct. 24. See all the photos of the kick off on flickr - Kick Off.

First Annual MoDOT Statewide Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

After being rained out on Sept. 6, the first annual MoDOT Statewide Slow-pitch Softball Tournament was rescheduled to Sept. 20.

According to Senior Employee Development Specialist Kevin Kiesling, the tournament was a success.

Ten teams from around the state met at Binder Softball Complex in Jefferson City to play in a fun and friendly competition.

"The weather was great and it was a great opportunity for employees to interact with each other from around the state." said Kiesling. Tournament champions were the Sliding Slabs, pictured above.

More photos can be found on flickr - Tournament

ADA Awareness Training

Senior Management Team had the opportunity to see the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements on city streets, when they navigated the downtown Jefferson City area as a person with physical limitations.

The exercise was designed to help the team be more personally aware about how MoDOT project decisions, especially our project design, affects those with disabilities. It gave the team a new perspective on the importance of the ADA requirements.

Flu Shots Offered

Central Office employees can register on SharePoint to receive their flu shot - Sign up for flu shots.

Click on the link and select the day, time and location that best fits your schedule. Type your name in the location and time slot of your choice. To protect your privacy, once you have entered your name, hit the refresh button so your name will appear as XXXXXX. Be sure to write down the date and time you selected because you will not be able to see your name after refreshing and leaving the page.

- All employees are encouraged to participate because vaccination is the best protection from the flu.
- Employees with MoDOT medical insurance need to bring their insurance cards with them.
- Coventry will be billed directly and will pay 100 percent under preventative services. If you forget your card you will have to pay $26 and then submit the claim form for reimbursement.
- Employees not covered by MoDOT medical insurance will need to pay $26 to receive the shot (payment is due at the time, cash or checks are accepted).
- Employees will complete a consent form before receiving the shot (available at each location).
- Employees will soon be receiving an email with this information.

Date	Location	Time
10/14	105 West Capitol Ave. - Room 206	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
10/15	601 West Main - Training Room B	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
10/15	1617 Missouri Blvd. - 2nd Floor Conf. Room	1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
10/20	830 MoDOT Dr. - Gold Room	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Day of Remembrance

In honor and memory of those who gave their lives in service to MoDOT's Northwest District and the state of Missouri, family members joined employees and retirees in a Day of Remembrance ceremony on the south lawn of the District Office building.

In 1997, a memorial bench was placed under a beautiful evergreen on the south lawn of the complex, dedicated to those who lost their lives in service to the MoDOT. A plaque also hangs in the lobby of the District Office building with the names of the fallen MoDOT employees from the 20 counties of the Northwest District.

Marilyn Ward and Mary Sharp, daughters of William "Art" Walker, 1954, and Margaret Watts, daughter of Claude Adkison, 1968, and her family, were able to join us for the brief ceremony.

District Engineer Don Wichern welcomed and recognized both families of the fallen and retirees and gave a stirring speech reminding us of our duty to not add another name to the list of fallen. Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy read the names of the 18 fallen workers from the Northwest District, followed by a moment of silence. Missouri State Highway Patrol retiree Roger Heard played a haunting rendition of "Amazing Grace" as a fitting tribute to end the ceremony.

Their sacrifice will always be remembered.

District Engineer Don Wichern spoke with as many family members and retirees as he could, prior to the ceremony.

The ceremony took place at the memorial bench, placed on the south lawn of the district office complex in 1997. The bench was lined with red roses - one for each fallen worker in the 20 counties of the Northwest District. After the ceremony, the roses were given to family members and retirees.

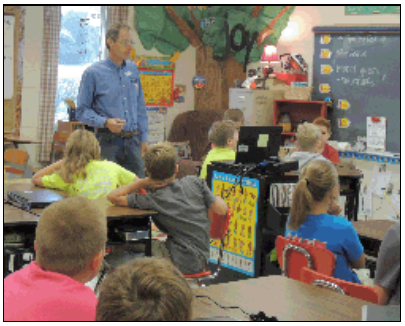
Missouri State Highway Patrol retiree Roger Heard served as the lone bagpiper, playing a haunting rendition of "Amazing Grace."

After the ceremony, many current employees and retirees chatted and reminisced about old times, including current employee Kathy Tripp and retiree Richard Weitlich.

Northwest District Goes To School

Several Northwest District employees packed their school bags and went back to elementary school for a day. They brought their interactive and informative program to the fifth grade students at St. Joseph Christian School in St. Joseph. They spoke with the students about design and bridge building, then led them through using a computer program to build a bridge.

Students also toured the sign shop, salt dome and explored the rock piles at the St. Joseph maintenance facility. This is the fourth year that the team has presented to students at St. Joseph Christian School.



Project Manager Wes Moore discussed designing roads and bridges with students.

Traffic Studies Specialist Bryce Acton and Traffic Operations Engineer José Rodriguez presented a computer program on bridge building.

After the presentations by MoDOT staff, the students had the chance to put what they had learned to use in a bridge building computer program.

During their visit to the sign shop, the class go to see how large road signs really are!

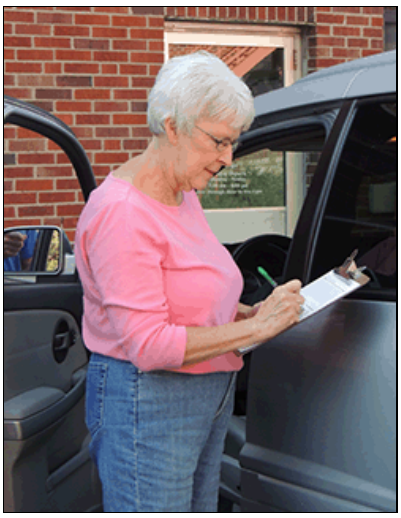
Child Passenger Safety Week

National Child Passenger Safety Week is observed each September with the focus on a very vulnerable age group - children. Children are often at the mercy of their adult caregivers to ensure their safety when in a motor vehicle. Child Passenger Safety Week is focused on educating parents and caregivers about the importance of buckling children up in

the right way, in the right seat, each and every trip.

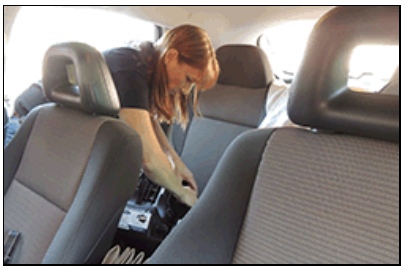
As part of the educational outreach efforts, car seat checks were held across the district - and across the nation - the week of Sept.15 - 20. The photos below were taken during a free car seat check held at the Northwest District Office Tuesday, Sept. 16, by several certified technicians.

Several Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians from across the area helped inspect car seats and booster seats for free as part of Child Passenger Safety Week. In order to become certified, each technician attended extensive training sessions and performed checks prior to receiving their certification. If you're interested in becoming a CPS Tech in Northwest Missouri, please contact Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen at 816-387-2437 or visit www.safekids.org.

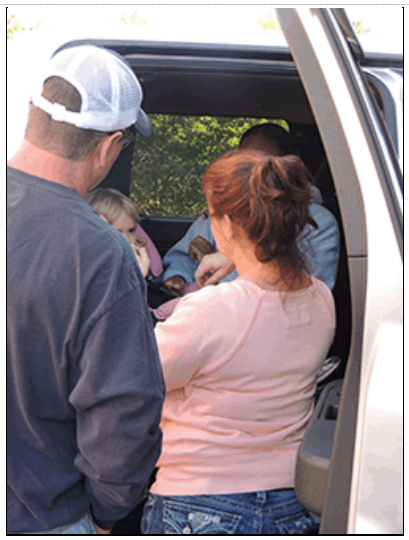


Part of the free car seat inspections included the driver filling out paperwork.

A certified CPS tech measures one rider to ensure she's in the proper safety seat in her father's truck.



Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen inspects a car seat for proper installation during the free safety seat check at the District Office.



Because she's almost outgrown the seat, it's important that this young rider's shoulder straps be adjusted properly to keep her as safe as possible. Here two technicians demonstrate to a father the safest way for his daughter to ride.

Alan Van Zandt from the local ABC affiliate interviews Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen about the car seat check and Child Passenger Safety Week.

Walk This Way

A recent sidewalk project on Route H in Andrew County brought ADA improvements and increase mobility to the residents of Fillmore. Pictured below are before and after pictures of the same location. Thanks to Senior Construction Inspector Kris Buczek for the photos.

Before

After

Before

After

Before

After

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Northeast District

St. Francisville Toll Bridge Inspected

Certified rope instructors were "hangin' out" on the St. Francisville bridge earlier this month to perform a fracture critical inspection.

Pictured is an inspector on the St. Francisville bridge earlier this month.

"This detailed inspection was recommended due to a previous general inspection I performed earlier in the year," said MoDOT Northeast District Off-System Bridge Inspector Skip Wilson. "It was pretty cool to watch several of them dangling from the bridge, all the while looking for structural issues," he added.

The truss portions of the 763 feet long bridge over the Des Moines River between Missouri and Iowa were inspected. All climbing was performed by certified rope access inspectors out of Reno, Nevada.

The initial findings are that the truss is in fair to good general overall conditions for a bridge built in 1937. No significant fracture critical concerns were discovered.

The bridge is owned by the Wayland Special Road District in Clark County. Until the replacement bridges on MO Route 27 were opened in 2008, this served as the main river crossing from Missouri Route B to Iowa U.S. 218.

Around the District...

The 85-year-old bridge over Elkhorn Creek near Buell (south of Middletown) has deteriorated to the point it has become a safety issue and was closed last Monday morning. MoDOT will be repairing this piece of the bridge in October, hoping to have it reopened by the end of the month.

Both lanes of westbound I-70 and one lane of eastbound were closed for more than 12 hours earlier this month due to two separate incidents in the same area near Warrenton. A tractor trailer lost control and went across the median guard cable, striking another car and killing the driver. Immediately following, three tractor trailers crashed, causing the closures. Several members of the MoDOT team spent a VERY long night dealing with traffic issues.

Top: Northeast Assistant District Engineer Kevin James and several employees gather at Employee Memorial to remember fallen workers.
Bottom: Ted Hesse, son of Harold Hesse (1949) and Judy Couch, sister of Danny Leake (1971) attended Day of Remembrance.

Pictured above is a ribbon that was displayed at the Macon Regional Office in memory of fallen workers during Day of Remembrance.

Not something you see everyday on the road....a passenger plane. Needing to make an emergency landing, a passenger plane made a quick decision to land on MO 19 in Ralls County. MoDOT crews flagged traffic while the plane was pulled to a small repair shop on Missouri Route Y just off of MO 19.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

KansasCity District

Kansas City Employees Honor Fallen Workers

An overcast morning echoed the solemn mood as friends, family and KC District employees gathered to honor MoDOT workers killed in the line of duty.

The somber Day of Remembrance ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 18 was held in front of the district office where everyone in attendance stood shoulder to shoulder to help mark the occasion.

It started with The Presentation of Colors from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop A. They silently and meticulously marched from the front office doors to the memorial plaque that sits underneath a swath of trees.

Twenty-one channelizers with hard hats sitting atop of them aligned the pathway of the memorial, each signifying the deaths of Kansas City area workers killed while on the job.

District Engineer Dan Niec began the ceremony with a few words, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. District Engineer Chris Redline read the Safety Commitment, “I will make safety my highest priority and do everything within my power so everyone goes home safe every day.”

Over the years, not everyone has made it home safely. One hundred and thirty-one MoDOT workers statewide have died. To honor them on this day, each one of their names was read aloud.

One of the names, Clifton Scott is still fresh in the minds of district employees. Scott, 50 died Sept. 21, 2012 when a driver plowed into the back of his MoDOT truck while he worked a traffic accident along I-70 in Independence. Today, a portion of roadway is now named in Scott’s honor.

Scott’s family was in attendance of the ceremony. They spoke of his memory and of his legacy. They also took time to take photographs with MoDOT workers saying, “We are all family now.”

After a moment of silence, District Traffic Engineer Laurel McKean played “Amazing Grace” on the saxophone.

The ceremony concluded with hugs, handshakes and lots of cheerful laughter. See all the photos from this event on **MoDOT Kansas City's flickr site.**

Employees Learn Teamwork from the Best

With a couple of well-known speakers like retired Royals second basemen Frank White and Coach Ken Carter of the movie “Coach Carter,” it’s no wonder teamwork was the theme of this year’s Kansas City District’s Diversity and Inclusion Conference held Sept. 16 in Blue Springs.

District Engineer Dan Niec kicked off the day, while Assistant

District Engineer Brian Kidwell followed with an overview of the importance of teamwork at MoDOT to the approximately 200 employees of the KC District who were there to participate.

White was next with his speech, “It Takes All of Us to be a Winning Team,” which covered everything from the beginning of his professional baseball career to how he still uses many of the valuable lessons today. He encouraged all employees to take the same direction he did in baseball and be the best at whatever they do.

“If you are on the field, good things happen,” White said. “If you are in the dugout, nothing happens. Just do the job you have to do and be accountable and know your limits and strengths.” According to White, the best thing about being on a team is that no matter what your teammates are always there to “pick you up.”

Coach Carter talked about “Building a Winning Team” and focused on how playing your position consists of four main points: accountability, integrity, being a great follower and being part of the team. “We can’t all be famous for what we do, but each and every one of us can become great by what we do in service to others,” Carter said.

Employees continued the day with a teamwork exercise led by Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline where everyone learned a little something new about those around them. Assistant to the District Engineer Randy Hartman closed the day with a few remarks.

“We need every one of our employees to make our team successful,” Hartman said. “Every employee has an important position to play – and if each of us comes to work each day knowing we are going to be the best at our job, accountable for what we need to do, and respectful, non-judgmental and positive with our co-workers, then I can’t imagine there isn’t anything we can’t do. What a great place to work if we know that no matter what happens, we always know someone is going to be there to “pick you up.”

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

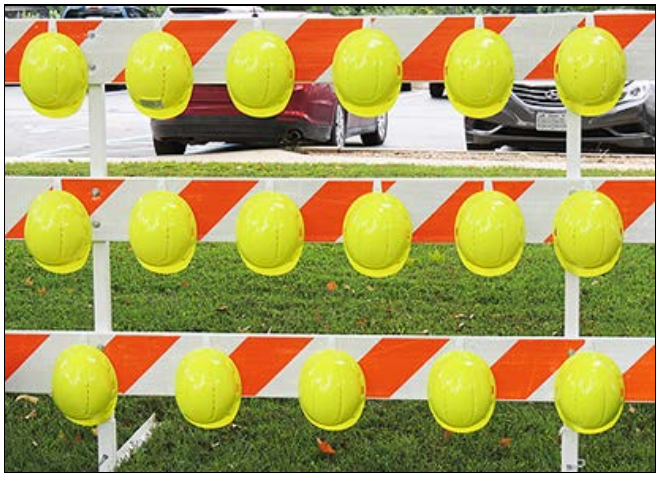
September 25, 2014

District Honors Fallen Workers With Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Central District Assistant Engineer Travis Koestner led a Day of Remembrance ceremony on Sept. 18 to honor MoDOT workers who died in service to the State of Missouri.

The ceremony included the posting of the colors by the Lincoln University R.O.T.C.; a moment of silence honoring all 131 fallen workers statewide; and a playing of "Taps" by Officer Andy Lenart of the Jefferson City Police Department.

"Our hearts go out to the friends and families of these fallen MoDOT workers," said Koestner. "We must remember these workers and their sacrifice. And we must continue to do all we can to keep ourselves, our co-workers and the public safe."



A barricade displays 17 helmets in memory of the 17 Central District MoDOT workers who have been killed in the line of service to the State of Missouri. The memorial was displayed on Sept. 18 during the district's Day of Remembrance ceremony.

More photos from the ceremony can be found on the district's Flickr page at the following link: https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot_central_district/sets/72157647572292427/

Ribbon is Cut on Osage Route 50 Project

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, Central District Engineer David Silvester, Sen. Mike Kehoe, Rep. Tom Hurst and Osage County Commissioner Dave Dudenhoeffer were among the dignitaries present on Friday, Sept. 12 to cut the ribbon and celebrate the completion of a $25.5 million project to expand Route 50 in Osage County.

Under the $25.5 million project, approximately 6.6 miles of Route 50 were relocated and widened to four lanes, from the Route 50/63 junction to County Road 604 west of Linn.

The project also included construction of a new Maries River bridge. This innovative bridge includes a support structure and girders made of a state-of the-art concrete mix that is stronger and costs less than traditional materials.

More photos from the ceremony can be found on the district's Flickr page at the following link: http://bit.ly/1wLG17t

---

Around the District

Senior Human Resources Technician Debbie Redel had her retirement party at the district office, celebrating 8 years of service to MoDOT. Debbie, we thank you for your many years of service to MoDOT and we wish you a very happy retirement!

Senior Highway Designer Geoff Franks (center) and Transportation Project Manager Bruce Green (right) talk with two customers about a planned project in Sleeper at a public meeting in Laclede County.

For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Customer Relations Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

St. Louis District

Day of Remembrance

by Shaunda White

A group of St. Louis employees coordinated a Ride for Remembrance event to honor fallen workers and raise money while driving antique cars and riding motorcycles. The crew started at the TMC in Chesterfield and ended at the statewide Fallen Workers Memorial in Jefferson City. The money raised from the ride benefited the 1033 Benevolent fund.

SL District Employees line up to begin the Ride for Remembrance on Sept. 18 in Chesterfield.

The group leaves the TMC early morning and head to Jefferson City for the statewide Fallen Workers Memorial.

Family members and district employees gathered on Sept. 18 to honor the memory of the SL MoDOT workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial ceremony was led by District Engineer Greg Horn.

SL District Engineer Greg Horn leads the memorial ceremony in front of the district office.

Family members honor lost loved ones at the SL district memorial ceremony.

MoDOT hosts annual Safety Fair in North St. Louis County

by Shirlyn Myles

Every year children sustain injuries from car accidents because of improper car seat installation. Last Saturday, hundreds of families with small children attended the annual SHOW ME Safety Fair to ensure that the car seats in their vehicles

were safely secured.

MoDOT, along with the Missouri Coalition for Safety, hosted the fair to raise safety and health awareness in the north county St. Louis community.

During the safety fair MoDOT and its community partners educated drivers on the importance of buckling up, the use of bike helmets, household safety, and health and wellness. Along with safety tips and education, families received free refreshments, bike helmets, health screening, and giveaways.

"This is the type of event that benefits the community in a huge way. It gives us the chance to educate the public and it also brings the Police, Fire Department and other local agencies closer to the community," said Sergeant Al Nothum, Missouri Highway Patrol.

Sergeant Al Nothum from MO Highway Patrol explains to families how the Seat Belt Convincer works at the Safety Fair.

This fair is part of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's initiative to reduce the number of roadway fatalities in Missouri using education and outreach, and as part of a continued effort to increase the percentage of child safety seat usage in households through demonstration and car seat checks.

Additional sponsors for the event included Kohl's 4 Kids and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center.

Crew Leaders Prepare for Advancement

by Shaunda White

Wentzville Maintenance Supervisor Larry Evans (standing) teaches the first part of the Peer Today Boss Tomorrow class at Barrett Station.

District crew leaders learned how to become more effective in a supervisory role through an eight hour segment training course held earlier this month at the Barrett Station facility. The training course, Peer Today Boss Tomorrow, is part of the nine month crew leaders' series training and is designed to prepare maintenance workers for career advancement.

As part of the Maintenance Leadership Academy, the crew leaders' series provides prospective leaders with the knowledge, tools and skills necessary for the next supervisory level within MoDOT maintenance.

This year's final semester for the crew leaders' series is in session and maintenance workers are taking full advantage of the training program. This semester focuses on performance management and how to supervise friends and older employees.

As part of the Maintenance Leadership Academy, the crew leaders' series expected outcomes include:

- A thorough understanding of how to effectively manage maintenance
- Understanding how to deal with difficult employees or co-workers
- Being prepared for promotion when the opportunity arises
- Improving staff morale

"This is a great resource to keep in your toolbox for supervision. It provides crew leaders with great work ethics," said Kevin Mullins, maintenance crew leader.

Applications for next year's session are being accepted from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. For additional information please contact the human resources department.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Southwest District

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Southwest District Day of Remembrance

Maxine Hawkins Morelock, daughter of John C. Hawkins who died in a work zone accident in 1950, helps Springfield Senior Maintenance Worker Clint Eidson place a placard with her father's name on it. Placards with the names of the Southwest District's 22 fallen workers were placed next to trimline cones with safety vests and hard hats during the District Office's Day of Remembrance ceremony Sept. 18. (Photo / David Mitchell)

Monica Slatten, mother of Joshua Slatten who died in work related vehicle crash in 2008, hugs Branson Maintenance Supervisor Jim Jewsbury following the District Office's Day of Remembrance gathering. (Photo / David Mitchell)

Employees, retirees and families take part in the Day of Remembrance gathering at the Joplin Regional Office. Sharon Minton, at far right, widow of James Minton, Jr. who died in an explosion at a work-related conference at Lake of the Ozarks in 1991, attended the gathering. (Photo / David Mitchell)

Cassville maintenance employees read the names of fallen Southwest District workers during Day of Remembrance event. (Photo / David Colf)

District Support Services Manager Deborah Stuart (far right), leads the Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Marshfield maintenance shop. (Photo/Jeff Robertson)

Springfield Resident Engineer Brad Gripka (far right) leads the Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Neosho maintenance shop. (Photo/Travis Wilfong)

Employees at the Branson maintenance shop set up this memorial to fallen MoDOT workers on the Day of Remembrance. (Photo/Tom Anna)

SW District Remembers Fallen Workers

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District honored MoDOT employees who have died on the job during Day of Remembrance observances on September 18.

State records indicate 131 women and men have died in service to the citizens of Missouri since 1946. Twenty-two of those were from the Southwest District, the most recent in 2008.

Services were held at the District Office in Springfield and the Regional Office in Joplin. Members of the District Management Team also fanned out across the Southwest District, visiting each of the district's maintenance buildings and project offices, bringing together employees, families of the fallen and retirees to emphasize the importance of safety and to remember, honor and respect those who lost their lives.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 25, 2014

Southeast District

Improved Route 60/95 Interchange in Mountain Grove Opens to Traffic

Work on the improved Route 60/95 interchange in Mountain Grove wrapped up last Friday, Sept. 19.

The improvements included replacing concrete and adding turn lanes on the ramps, rehabilitating the deck of the overpass, and upgrading the signals.

"This is a very busy, location with Wal-Mart and several restaurants in close proximity," said Resident Engineer Lindell Huskey. "We have appreciated the public's patience as these important updates to the interchange were completed."

In addition, he explained that the contractors on the project also deserve thanks for their hard work.

"Throughout the project, the contractors worked to keep traffic moving within the work zone," said Huskey. "In addition, they delivered a high-quality finished product."

On Friday, Sept. 19, the striping on the improved Route 60/95 interchange was finalized, and traffic resumed normal operations that afternoon.

SE Safety Begins with Me Team Awards

There are many risk factors associated with working next to traffic, operating heavy equipment and performing many of the day-to-day activities of a MoDOT employee. However, there are things employees can do to help everyone go home safely at the end of each work day.

Recently, team awards for the Safety Begins with Me program were announced for the first half of calendar year 2014.

Thanks to the following teams for their dedication to safety!

Maintenance:
Advance
Alton
Ava
Belleview
Bunker
Centerville
Dora
Ellington
Ellsinore
Fredericktown
Gainesville
Hartville

Maintenance continued:
Jackson
Marble Hill
Piedmont
Poplar Bluff
Regional Bridge 1
Summersville
Ste. Genevieve
Van Buren

Other Safety-Sensitive Teams:
Construction – Jackson, Park Hills, Poplar Bluff, Willow Springs
General Services Willow Springs

Hayti
Houston

Materials
Traffic & Signals

Day of Remembrance 2014

The SE District joined Central Office and districts across the state in holding a Day of Remembrance on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Thanks to the employees who were able to attend in honor of our 131 fallen co-workers. In the SE District, the widow of fallen MoDOT employee Johnny Lee Hays and close family friend and former co-worker Butch Anderson were in attendance.

Photos of the ceremony are available at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157647854660875.

Caption: Click the image to the left to view photos from the SE District's Day of Remembrance.

Latham Memorial Highway Video, Photos

Click on the image above to watch the Latham Memorial Highway dedication ceremony. The event concluded with the Hinkel family performing 'Amazing Grace.'

Initially, there were some obstacles to overcome in making the Latham Memorial Highway a reality. But the day finally arrived, and the Sept. 6 dedication ceremony was filled with family and friends sharing stories and laughter.

State Representative Paul Fitzwater acquired the necessary 100 signatures to designate Route A from Route 49 to Route 32 in Iron and Reynolds Counties the "Latham Memorial Highway."

The memorial highway signs honor both Opal and Edward Latham for the legacy of improvements they left behind for area travelers.

"My mother, Opal Latham, was a driving force behind getting Route A asphalted in the 1960s," said Ms. Shirley Harrell.

Harrell also explained that her father, Edward Latham, sold his land in support of improvements to Route A.

Speakers included:

- The Honorable Paul Fitzwater, Missouri House of Representatives, District 144
- Ms. Shirley Harrell, daughter of Opal and Edward Latham
- Ms. Ann Latham Will, daughter of Opal and Edward Latham
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton

To learn more about the highway dedication ceremony or view photos, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/lathammemorialhighway_sept.2014.htm.

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

CO NW NE
KC CD SL SW SE